(c) the schemes of Government for generating energy from sea waves?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) A power plant generating energy from sea waves was reportedly tested on October, 26, 2005 at Port Kemble, Australia which generated a power ranging up to 7 k W alongwith the desalinated freshwater. Earlier, India set up a wave power plant indigenously at Vizhinjam near Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala in October, 1991. The rated capacity of the plant is 50 k W, with an energy output of 4.45 lakh units per year. The wave powered desalination technology with a capacity of producing 10000 liters of desalinated freshwater per day was also demonstrated for the first time at Vizhinjam in June, 2003 and the water was distributed to the local community for about one and half year. However, the power plant base on sea waves is not found to be cost effective at commercial scale due to high capital cost.

Dependence on imported coal

4207. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that congestion at Australia's New Castle port is going to hit hard on our thermal power sector;

(b) if so, the additional amount Indian thermal power units would pay to meet the higher transportation costs, to have coal from other countries;

(c) whether the new ultra mega power plants planned to be set up in coastal areas would increase our consumption demand of coal particularly that of imported coal; and

(d) if so, the steps which are being taken to reduce our dependence on imported coal?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. According to information available none of the power utility is importing coal from Australia.

(c) and (d) Coal is to remain mainstay in the fuel mix for power generation in the country. Report of the Expert Committee on Integrated Energy Policy has *inter-alia* recommended that domestic coal production should be stepped up. At the same time the needed infrastructure must

be created to facilitate thermal coal imports. National Electricity Policy further enunciated that imported coal based thermal power stations, particularly at coastal locations, would be encouraged based on their economic viability. Use of low ash content coal would also help in reducing the problem of fly ash emissions. Under the development of Ultra Mega Power Project (UMPP) initiative, bidding process in respect of 2 projects namely Sasan, Madhya Pradesh and Mundra, Gujarat has been completed and bidding proocess in respect of two other projects namely Krishnapatanam, Andhra Pradesh and Tilaiya, Jharkhand is current underway. Of these Sasan and Tilaiya UMPPs are pit-head projects based on indigenous coal and Mundra and Krishnapatnam UMPPs are at coastal locations to be based on imported fuel. During the Eleventh Plan it is proposed to add 52,905 MW coal based capacity out of which only 1350 MW is to be on imported coal.

Pending proposal of Orissa under APDRP

4208. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of proposals in the power sector of Orissa including under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) are pending with the Centre for approval;

(b) if so, the status thereof; and

(c) the time-frame within which these pending proposals will be cleared by the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Requirement of concurrence of Central Electricity Authority for setting up thermal power projects has been dispensed with. No proposal for setting up of a hydro power project from Orissa is pending with Central Electricity Authority for concurrence. At present, under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) also, no fresh proposal from the State of Orissa is pending. However, three projects received from Orissa have been cleared by the Steering Committee and its implementation is contingent upon continuation of APDRP scheme in the Eleventh Plan. Under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, out of 29 Detailed Project